

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 37

2 46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 John Arthur Smith

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS TO PROVIDE RELIEF
12 FOR THOSE LESSEES WHO HAVE BEEN SEVERELY AFFECTED BY DROUGHT
13 CONDITIONS ON THEIR STATE LEASE HOLDINGS.

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15 WHEREAS, New Mexico has been in significant drought for
16 several years, and many areas of the state and other parts of
17 the southwest have been declared areas of drought emergency by
18 the federal government; and

19 WHEREAS, leaseholders of state land have contractual
20 obligations with the state land office obligating them to
21 payments based on normal range condition; and

22 WHEREAS, the drought has affected the range condition so
23 severely that herds have had to be reduced, yet no commensurate
24 reduction in fees paid to the state land office has occurred;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the commissioner of public lands be
2 requested to review the current rates for stocking and rental
3 of all state trust land under an agricultural lease and to
4 identify areas affected by drought and, if applicable, offer
5 drought relief; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that drought relief be offered to
7 protect the state's valuable natural resources and trust lands
8 and that the drought relief program should consider freezing
9 rentals, adjusting the carrying capacity where warranted,
10 requesting livestock reductions and adjusting rentals on a
11 percentage basis; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that drought relief requests be
13 reviewed by the commissioner of public lands in a timely manner
14 and that the appropriate relief measures be approved through
15 December 2004 for leases in good standing on January 1, 2004;
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that drought relief requests only
18 be accepted from lessees of record and that any rental
19 adjustments be made on the next annual billing of the lease;
20 and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the commissioner of public lands.